Mr. T. A. Crerar,
United Grain Growers,
Winnipeg, Man.

THE

U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA // THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VIII. CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 22nd, 1929 No. 6.

Assembly Discusses Medical Needs of Rural Areas

Staff Correspondence

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Gardiner Calls for Dismissal of Grain Commission

U.F.A. Demand Is Voiced in Parliament

* * *

News from the Wheat Pool Head Office

Supreme Court Decision in H. W. Keay Case

Gardiner Calls for Dismissal of Grain Commission Whom He Holds Responsible for Violation of Grain Act

U.F.A. Chairman in House of Commons Indicts Commission—"Hybrid" Ticket Used Without Sanction of Government, and in Violation of Law.

Dismissal of the Board of Grain Commissioners, on the ground that by giving approval to the "hybrid" ticket the Board caused the farmer who is a member of the Wheat Pool to be deprived of the control of the destination of his grain, and to that extent sanctioned a violation of the Canada Grain Act, was demanded by Robert Gardiner, M.P., chairman of the U.F.A. group in the House of Commons, in the course of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne at Ottawa on February 11th.

In the daily press of Alberta only a very brief reference was made in the despatches to this matter which is of primary and vital interest to scores of thousands of Western wheat growers. We therefore quote from the verbatim report of "Hansard" (the official Parliamentary record) the portion of Mr. Gardiner's speech in which the Grain Commission was indicted.

It is evident from a reading of this report that Mr. Malcolm, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, was ignorant of the action of the Commission in consenting to the use of the "hybrid" ticket. No order-in-council was obtained from the Ottawa Government authorizing the ticket, as required by law. The Commission was in duty bound to obtain an order-in-council before approving of the ticket.

THE HANSARD RECORD

The report from Hansard follows:

Mr. Gardiner: I am going to take the rest of my time to deal with a matter of vital importance to the farmers of Western Canada, namely, the question of the Canada Grain Act.

An Unprofitable Crop

The first statement I wish to make is that while the crop of last year is the largest ever grown in Western Canada, it is my humble judgment that that crop was not produced at a profit. I am not going to say that it was produced at a loss, but the margin received by the farmers was so close to the cost of production that we can say that the crop was not produced at a profit. I think I can say that the crop was probably the greatest disappointment of any crop that has been grown in the West for many years past.

This was due to climatic conditions, frost, hail and so forth, and consequently we cannot blame any one in that regard. The idea, however, seems to be prevalent, particularly in Eastern Canada, that the farmers this year made a tremendous amount of money out of wheat. If you go into the small towns in Western Canada the merchants there will tell you very quickly that the farmers at the present time have no purchasing power and consequently they could not have made a great deal of money out of wheat. Indeed, I am satisfied they did not make any money at all and if they broke even, they were lucky.

Dissatisfaction With Grading System

In a year like this it is only natural that the grading system should come under review and criticism by the person who produces the commodity. This year has been no exception to the rule. I have heard more criticism this year than I have ever heard before directed against the grading system and the farmer feels that the time has come when some better system should be evolved in regard to grading his wheat. The farmer maintains that the present system does not determine to any great extent the milling value of his product and it is on the basis of the milling value of his product that he receives a price for that commodity in the markets of the world. In view of the investigation of the Agricultural Committee last year into this question and the possibility of the matter arising again out of their report, I am not going to suggest any particular method or any particular change. I hope, however, that something may be done. The farmer of the West feels that just so long as the personal element enters into the question of grading his product, he will never have a satisfactory system, and I hope that ways and means will be found by the Agricultural Committee of bringing in a system that will be more satisfactory in determining the milling value of this particular commodity.

The Grain Commission

The greatest criticism, however, is being levelled at the present time in Western Canada against the Board of Grain Commissioners and it is my purpose to deal for a few minutes with this Commission. The Board of Grain Commissioners was appointed to administer the Canada Grain Act. That is its duty and function. The farmers of the west claim that the Commission has not been administering the act as it should be.

Before I proceed further, let me inform the House that all the expenses of the Grain Commission in regard to inspection, weighing and all the services which it provides, are paid for by the farmers themselves. Certain charges are levied against each car of wheat, to the extent of two dollars, I believe, and those charges cover the expenses of the grain commission and all they have to do in connection with the administration of the act. Therefore the administration of the act does not cost the people of Canada anything. Under these circumstances we say that we want a Board of Grain Commissioners that will interpret and administer the act as the House of Commons intended it should be administered.

The "Hybrid" Ticket

The greatest criticism of the Board of Grain Commissioners is with regard to what they call this "hybrid" or "high-powered" ticket for special binned grain. This ticket has been issued and forced upon farmers even though they have refused to accept it. The Board of Grain Commissioners in letters that I have seen have stated to farmers who have objected to this form of ticket that the Board thought the ticket was all right and that the farmer should accept it. I challenge any member of this House to show where the Board ever received authority from the Canada Grain Act to make such a statement.

Mr. Malcolm: I will answer that question, but not at the moment.

Mr. Gardiner: Do I take it from the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) that the Government have passed an order-in-council permitting such a ticket to be issued?

Mr. Malcolm: Yes, and I will explain the whole thing when I speak.

Mr. Gardiner: If that be so, it is news to us. We would like to receive some explanation as to when this order-in-council was passed.

Mr. Malcolm: I would like my honorable friend to continue his speech. I will answer him when I speak.

Mr. Gardiner: Well, I will continue to discuss the matter as I see it. I have before me a letter received by me this afternoon from the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce. I requested him to send me copies of all orders in council dealing with the special binned ticket. I have his letter and the reference before me, so I take it that in so far as this "highpowered" ticket is concerned:—

Mr. Malcolm: *I do not know what my hon. friend is referring to. Will he explain that word?*

Mr. Gardiner: In Western Canada we call it a "highpowered" or "hybrid" ticket. That is a pet name we give to it. To explain more clearly what I mean, may I say that in the schedule of the Canada Grain Act dealing with those tickets, you will find that the special binned ticket reads as follows:

"Received into store from—"

Then there are inserted the name of the farmer from whom the grain was received, so many bushels, pounds and so forth. The ticket which the companies have been issuing and which the farmers take exception to, reads as follows:

"Received into store on account of the Alberta Wheat Producers, Limited—"

If an order in council has been passed permitting such a ticket to be issued, of course the Government will have to be responsible for that. But in view of the fact that the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce sent to me this afternoon all the changes that have been made in these tickets, and as I do not see in the correspondence any ticket which is at all like the one that we call the "hybrid" ticket, I must assume that no order in council has been passed in that regard.

Mr. Malcolm: Has my hon. friend the orders in council?

Mr. Gardiner: I have them here.

Mr. Malcolm: I do not know what ticket he refers to when he uses the word "hybrid." I never heard the expression before.

Mr. Gardiner: I am dealing with the special binned ticket. An order-in-council was passed amending the special binned ticket in order to bring it into conformity

(Continued on page 10)

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CIRCULATION

Average net paid circulation, six months ending February 1st, 1929 17,321

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

W. S. H. H. HOCKLEDGE, J. DUNN SPEARS

THE U.F.A.

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA
Langford Building
CALGARY - ALBERTA

Official Organ of
THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
THE ALBERTA LIVESTOCK POOL
THE ALBERTA DAIRY POOL
THE ALBERTA EGG AND POULTRY POOL
THE ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE WOOLGROWERS

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Vol. VIII. CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 22nd, 1929 No. 6.

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EDITORIAL

POWER AND PUBLIC LIFE IN MANITOBA

A well-informed student of public affairs and shrewd judge of men observed in the course of conversation some months ago that there was no man prominent in political life in Canada in whose integrity greater confidence might be placed, than in that of John Bracken, of Manitoba. That judgment, we believe, will be endorsed by all who are familiar with Mr. Bracken's record. Nothing has occurred as a result of the investigation now proceeding into the Seven Sisters Power transaction, to shake that conviction.

For this reason, and still more for public reasons, it is to be hoped that Premier Bracken will handle firmly, and with an eye solely to the maintenance in his Cabinet of the highest standards of public conduct, the situation which has arisen in the sister Province. We write before his promised statement in the Manitoba Legislature has been made, and consequently under reserve. But some of the events of the past week cannot be allowed to pass without comment, because they concern not alone Manitoba, but the whole future of Canadian public life.

Under examination before a Royal Commission a few days ago, Hon. W. R. Clubb, Minister of Public Works for Manitoba, admitted that just prior to the conclusion of an agreement between his Government and an electrical power company, he purchased stock in the company in the expectation that his stock would increase in value when the contract was signed and made public. He was emphatic in stating that as a Minister he "made the best possible deal for the Province," and that his "own private interests were secondary matters."

That, however, was not the question. The question was whether a man occupying his office of high responsibility and trust, should have allowed himself to be placed in a position in which his conduct might bring him under suspicion. Mr. Clubb's answer to that question was clear—so clear as to prove him unfit (if he is reported correctly in the press) to hold high office. When asked whether he did not think it "improper for a Minister who was directly concerned with the making of the contract to take advantage of the knowledge that came to him to benefit personally," he replied that he did not, and that he considered his action in purchasing the stock "purely a private matter."

Mr. Clubb's purchase was made without the Premier's knowledge. It was made in consultation with J. T. Haig, a Conservative member of the Assembly, and evidence was also given to the effect that Mr. Haig, as well as the Speaker and the Attorney General of the Province, had purchased stock about this time. Mr. Clubb and the Attorney General, Mr. Major, placed their resignations in the Premier's hands immediately after the disclosures before the Commission. They have not been accepted as these lines are written, Mr. Bracken having stated that he will announce his decision in the Legislature today (February the 20th).

Now we are confident that upon the facts as given by Mr. Clubb, his conception of what is becoming conduct in a Minister of the Crown must differ from that of his chief, and from that of the general body of the Canadian public. If he had been summarily dismissed by Premier Bracken, the dismissal, upon the basis of the facts as stated, would seem to have been entirely appropriate. And unless the statement which Premier Bracken will make should shed an entirely different light upon the matter—and it is difficult to see how it can—it is to be hoped that the Premier will announce the acceptance of this and the other resignation.

For if the resignations should not be accepted, a standard would be set for Canadian public men which is not the highest standard. Not to accept the resignations would be to give notice to men now in public life, and to young men who aspire to it, that in Canada it is not considered improper for a Cabinet Minister to take advantage of his position, in the hope of reaping personal profit, in the manner in which Mr. Clubb and his colleague took advantage of theirs. We do not believe that Premier Bracken can wish to see such a precedent established.

Standards of political life are higher in Western Canada than at any time in our past history. The raising of these standards has been due, more than to any other single cause, to the influence of the organized farmers who have established traditions of citizenship. *It is desirable that the standards shall not be lowered.*

RURAL MEDICAL SERVICE

The greater part of one sitting of the Legislature last week was devoted to a discussion of the problem of rural medical service and the debate will be continued this week. The time was and will be well spent. The problem is a serious one, and no special interest, however important, can be allowed to stand in the way of its solution. The provision of the travelling clinic was a great step forward, for taking which the Department of Health has won, in the rural areas, universal and deserved commendation. But much remains to be done, and the Department will have the support of the whole farming community in the carrying out of the progressive policy which has been embarked upon. There is no desire, anywhere, to be unfair to Alberta medical practitioners, but the community's interest is paramount.

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Locals issued by the Publicity Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Highest Court in Province Supports Wheat Pool Contention

Appellate Division of Supreme Court Holds H. W. Keay Case Is One for Arbitration and Not Legal Action—Costs Levied Against Keay

The appellate division of the Supreme Court of Alberta granted the appeal of the Alberta Wheat Pool against the judgment of Mr. Justice Walsh, of the Supreme Court, and held that all matters in dispute between Harold William Keay, of Jenner, and the Alberta Wheat Pool are the subject of arbitration and not the proper subject of litigation. The judgment was written by Chief Justice Harvey and concurred in by all five judges forming the appellate division.

H. W. Keay commenced suit against the Alberta Wheat Pool in November, asking for $2500 damages. Through his solicitors Keay made a large number of claims, the principal ones being: that the profits of Pool elevators had been wrongfully distributed; that the Canadian Wheat Pool had mixed wheat, dealt in options, mingled members' wheat unlawfully; that the plaintiff had been refused the right to inspect the Pool's books and that no shares had been issued plaintiff showing his membership in Pool elevators; that the Wheat Pool had loaned Pool elevators money without proper authorization or proper security, and various other claims.

Arbitration Obligatory

The defence offered by the Wheat Pool's solicitors was that the dispute was one for arbitration as required by the following paragraph of the by-laws:

> **"Every dispute between any member or members of this Association or under the By-laws and the Trustees, Treasurer or other officer thereof, shall be decided by arbitration as provided by the Arbitration Act, provided, however, that this provision shall not apply as between the Association and any Member who fails to fulfil any of the covenants contained in the Marketing Agreement."**

On this ground the Pool's solicitors moved for an order dismissing the action, before Judge Walsh in the Supreme Court. Judge Walsh gave judgment that the clause cited by the Pool did not apply and dismissed the motion with costs against the Pool. An appeal was taken to the appellate division of the Supreme Court with the results that the Pool's contention was upheld and full costs of the various actions assessed against H. W. Keay.

Chief Justice' Review

Chief Justice Harvey said:

"On all grounds, in my view, it must be held that the matters in dispute are the subject of arbitration and not the proper subject of litigation.

"I cannot think of any dispute that can arise between a member and the trustees as such that could not with equal propriety be called a dispute between the member and the association.

"There is the further fact that the proviso to the bylaw which purports to make an exception, does so in words that express it as a dispute with the association. It could not, of course, be an exception without being included in the general description.

"It appears to me that this objection cannot be sustained.

"A further objection is that the provision for arbitration applies only to disputes between the member as such and the trustees and that inasmuch as these disputes arise out of his contract with the Pool and not out of his membership it has no application.

"It was this contention that succeeded below and in order to consider it properly it is necessary to refer more fully than I have yet done to the constitution of the Pool.

"The chief object of the Pool, or certainly the one most material to this inquiry, as set out in the memorandum of association and in the special act, is the co-operative marketing of wheat. To carry that out it is provided that agreements in prescribed terms shall be entered into with wheat growers. The agreement binds the grower to sell his wheat through the Pool for the seasons of 1923 to 1927 inclusive. By the agreement he also applies for one share at the price of $1.00 which the association agrees to allot to him. Under the terms of the bylaws all members agree to sign the agreement and no member may hold more than one share. The share is not assignable except by leave to one who becomes a member. The agreement itself which is confirmed by section 4 of the special act, provides that it shall not be effective and binding until similar agreements are made with growers of a wheat acreage equal to half of the whole wheat acreage of Alberta in the year 1922.

"It is clear, therefore, that as respects this agreement every member is a contractor and every contractor is a member, and it seems to me it is impossible to say that his rights as a contractor are not his rights as a member.

"It seems perfectly clear that this contract is not separate and distinct from the plaintiff's position as a member but on the other hand it is an essential feature of his membership. And the arbitration provisions must apply to disputes arising under it."

Keay Case Reviewed

The Keay case has incited a great deal of interest throughout Western Canada. It received the widest publicity and was sprung just before the annual Pool meeting last fall, possibly because the time was thought to be propitious. While the actual amount claimed was $2500, which it is doubtful if even the plaintiff's lawyers ever expected to secure, it was heralded as a "million dollar suit." The fact that an action has to be for at least $2500 before it can be tried in the Supreme Court, may have had something to do with fixing the amount of the claim, together with the larger interest aroused by a Supreme Court action rather than an action in a lesser court.

The result of the reaction on the Pool delegates may not have been as expected. To a man they voted to fight the legal battle to the last ditch. They realized that an action against the Pool was not a proceedings against the Directors or officials, but against every Pool member. The intense interest taken in the case by leading elevator and grain companies and those friendly to them did not escape observation. Also the fact that the solicitor for the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association conducted the case for the plaintiff.

Interesting Facts

H. W. Keay is a farmer south of Jenner. He joined the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1924 and shipped an average of 2,089 bushels a year to the Pool for four years or a total of 8,356 bushels in the four year period from 1924 to 1928. His financial interest in the Pool elevator reserve totals approximately $167.00 and in the commercial reserve approximately $80.00. During the years he was a member H. W. Keay was never refused the right to see the books of the Alberta Wheat Pool, yet in his statement of claim he asked the court for the right he could have secured for the asking. He never asked for a board of arbitration for any real or fancied wrong done him.

The Wheat Pool has never sought to keep the membership in the dark as to its activities. In fact the Pool has done everything that could reasonably be expected to keep the members well informed. It has made mistakes, true, but they were never serious and the intent has always been the welfare of the organization and the membership.

Keay claimed Pool Elevator excess earnings should have been distributed on a different basis. There is not a Pool elevator at Jenner and perhaps the plaintiff's position in this respect entitles him to some sympathy. But thousands of other Pool members are in the same predicament and instead of starting lawsuits against their fellow farmers they are striving to increase the Pool sign-up in their district in order to get a Pool elevator. Mr. Keay apparently never realized that the Pool system was designed to get away from the dividend-paying stock company plan to a service at cost and patronage dividend system.

The patronage dividend policy adopted by Pool elevators was put into operation upon the instructions of the Pool delegates, who are elected by Pool members. The full responsibility of the decision rests with those representatives, who are custodians of Pool elevator property of many millions of dollars. One result of the adoption of the patronage plan was a tremendously increased handling of Pool elevators, which was a possibility line elevator companies foresaw and hence they strenuously opposed the proposition.

The result of the unanimous judgment of the appellate division of the Supreme Court of Alberta must be a subject of gratification to all loyal members and supporters of the Wheat Pool movement in Western Canada, even although an appeal against the judgment has been made to the Supreme Court of Canada by Mr. Keay.

Field Service Notes

At Namaka

A Wheat Pool meeting was held recently by the Namaka Local when addresses were made by A. J. Watson, Pool delegate, and W. Pettinger, field service man. A great deal of information was given to those present and the members were well satisfied with the meeting. Officers were elected as follows: Chairman: George L. Peterson, Namaka; secretary: L. F. Pinkerton, Namaka.

Meeting at Killam

A very interesting Pool meeting was held at Killam, on January 4th, when delegate A. C. Walmsley, of F-7, reported the recent annual meeting and the field man for Camrose district spoke on questions usually asked with respect to the Pool. The Local at this point was also reorganized and is expected to co-operate with the delegate and the field man in a drive for contract signers at an early date.

Over 50 Present

A very successful meeting of Wheat Pool supporters was held at Craigmyle on the 12th of February, when R. A. MacPherson, Director for North Calgary, and George Chard, Pool field service man, addressed the meeting. Subjects discussed were farm storage, car order book, and the grain act. There were over ninety present at this meeting and a great deal of interest was taken in the discussion.

Local at Penokean

On January 7th delegate C. A. Fawcett of F-1 and the district field service man were successful in organizing what appears to be a very promising Pool Local at Penokean. Growers at this point are out after an elevator to handle next season's crop, also to bring the Pool membership to the highest possible figure. At the meeting held, a very keen interest in Pool affairs was in evidence, and an all round discussion followed the remarks of the visiting speakers.

Growers Brave Cold

Knob Hill, Brownfield and Bulwark are points at which delegate Harry Sheardown, of F-5, and the field service man, J. A. Cameron, held meetings during the latter part of January. With the mercury hovering around 40 below and the going bad on the roads, it was not to be expected that the turnout would be very good. But Jack Frost was not able to spoil things altogether. Many growers braved the cold and turned out to join in discussion or ask questions on the Pool. The close attention given the speakers at all three points shows that the people of these districts are looking for all the information available with respect to the many features of Pool business.

Well Pleased With Returns

Edwin Seibert, of Bentley, writes as follows: I am certainly well pleased with the returns from a carload of barley shipped through the Alberta Pool elevator and thank the Pool heartily. Samples of this barley taken by the Pool elevator and a line elevator here, sent to the inspector the same day, graded respectively 3 C.W. and rejected 4. At the time I started to haul in November the line agent offered me 37c net and the Pool price netted me 69 cents. If it was not for the Pool the line company elevator would have been richer by $412.05 on that car of barley. The Pool is certainly going to have my support and good wishes as long as I am farming.

DR. WARBASSE ON RADIO FEBRUARY 27th

Dr. James P. Warbasse, President of the Co-operative League of the United States, will speak over the Herald radio (CFAC) during the Wheat Pool period on Wednesday, February 27th. Dr. Warbasse's address will commence at 8:20 p.m.

R. J. Garland and Protein Content

In a report published in *The U.F.A.* of February 1st, it was stated that R. J. Garland, M.P., addressing a meeting at Rowley, had advocated a change in the wheat grading system so that protein content would be a factor in determining the grades. Mr. Garland writes to point out that our correspondent in this case entirely misunderstood the tenor of his remarks, and calls attention to the fact that his views on this subject are well known and were published in the course of a series of articles in *The U.F.A.* last fall. As these articles indicated, he states, "I am not by any means confident that the introduction of protein factor would make any material improvement in the grading system, nor would it eliminate any of the difficulties now encountered by the growers, as it would but mean the adding of further hazards to those which now exist under the present system."

Meetings in F-4

A splendid series of meetings have been held throughout sub-district F-4 by the local delegate, Walter Wright, and the Pool field service man, J. A. Cameron. The average attendance at these meetings has been good and the interest taken in the discussion of Pool affairs all that could be desired. At Loyalist, following a most interesting meeting, a Pool Local was organized and at the Broadview school the gathering resulted in a live discussion on Pool questions and the organization of a Pool committee of the U.F.A. at that point.

At Throne the Pool Local was reorganized and many questions of interest were brought up for discussion by the growers following the lead of the delegate and field man.

Best of the Series

The best meeting of the series, however, was at Talbot on January 11th. There is an active U.F.A. Local at this point and the people are wide-awake to the advantages of co-operation. A Pool committee of the U.F.A. was appointed after the delegates Harry Sheardown and Walter Wright had reported, and the field man had spoken on Pool topics.

The cold weather rather spoiled the meeting at Wheat Ridge on Saturday, January 12th, which, however, brought to a close a most interesting week of Pool work in this sub-district.

ENERGY IN THE WRONG PARTY

"Sam, are you ever fired with enthusiasm?"

"Yaaah, from every job I tackle."
—Course Pun

French Poolers Pleased

La Survivance, Jan. 17, 1929.— In our news page we publish a note which does not seem to amount to much but when analysed closely is none the less significant. The thing we are referring to is the success obtained by two canvassers in the signing of Second Series contracts for the Wheat Pool. Victor Joly, St. Paul, is heading the list of canvassers for the whole Province with 114 contracts to his credit, while Mr. H. E. Teller, Morinville, comes second with 83 contracts. Now, is it pure coincidence, or is there not also, with all this activity among the French-speaking farmers of the Province, the fact that Louis Normandeau was appointed to the post of organizer for the Wheat Pool? It seems to us that we have to take this into consideration when we mention the interest taken by our compatriots in the methods of marketing their wheat. The appointment of Louis Normandeau must have pleased our compatriots of the French language who have found in him a man capable of explaining to them in their own language, and in a successful manner, vital subjects concerning this great organization.

News & Views

A Wheat Pool Local has been formed at Dapp, with James Barker, as secretary, and F. S. Anderson as chairman.

A new Wheat Pool Local has been organized at Pearce with Arnold Champney, of Macleod as secretary, and P. Kooln, Pearce, as chairman.

Members at Spring Coulee have organized a Wheat Pool Local with Ray Bennett as secretary and Emery Barrus, chairman.

Verdant Valley U.F.A. and Wheat Pool Locals have been combined, and E. E. Morley, of Verdant Valley, has been appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

The Wheat Pool Local at De Winton has been reorganized. A. E. Sangster is secretary, and W. G. S. Heaver is the chairman. Both of these officers are at De Winton.

Cassidy Wheat Pool Local has recently been organized. J. W. Burman, of Loverna, Sask., has been appointed Secretary, and J. W. Dalton, Esther, Alta., chairman.

The Wheat Pool members in the Hughenden district are meeting at Hughenden Hall on Saturday, March 2nd, for the purpose of organizing a Wheat Pool Local.

Soren Fredericksen, of Wembley, signed a Coarse Grains Contract. Mr. Fredericksen is a prominent farmer in that district and is welcomed into the ranks of the Coarse Grains Pool.

On the evening of February 13th Miss Hazel McCardell, of Cherrebelin, contributed three vocal solos to the Wheat

(Continued on page 14)

Legislature Adopts Budget Without Division; Treasurer Lays Down Definite Policy Regarding Taxes

Gold Dockets No Taxes Will Be Earmarked for Any Special Purpose—Hoadley's Plans for Improved Rural Medical Service Provoke Discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

The debate on the Address and the debate on the Budget provide the two occasions upon which members, according to the custom, may cover the whole field of Provincial affairs in their speeches in the Assembly. The first two days of the debates reported in this issue were devoted to the Budget, and brought forth a very definite statement of policy in regard to the allocation of the proceeds of taxation by the Provincial Treasurer. The budget was adopted, after very brief discussion, without challenge to a division.

One of the most important debates of the week took place on the subject of medical service in Alberta's rural areas. The decision of the Department of Health to bring in a number of women doctors from overseas was the subject of criticism by a Liberal and a Conservative member, and was strongly defended by rural and Labor members of the Assembly.

Debate Ranges From Highways Policy to Irrigation Problems

McGillivray Differs with Weaver on Police Question—Why Provincial Control?

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 11.—A searching analysis of the condition of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation project by W. R. Shield, U.F.A. member for Macleod, brought to a close at the evening sitting a day spent in discussion of many Provincial problems. P. M. Christophers, Labor member for Rocky Mountain, and W. C. Smith, U.F.A. member for Empress, each made interesting contributions to the debate, dealing with subjects of which he had made a study, Mr. Christophers discussing in particular the coal industry, and Mr. Smith making a pertinent suggestion in regard to road policy and dealing at some length with conditions in the Tilley area of which he has intimate knowledge. As stated in a brief summary published in the last issue of *The U.F.A.*, the earlier part of the day was taken up by the speeches of the Conservative leader, A. A. McGillivray, who advocated the raising of $20,000,000 by means of 30 year debentures over a period of five years for road purposes, and also went on record as opposing the entrance of the Provincial Government into power development in competition with the companies which now largely hold the field; of O. L. McPherson, who declared the sounder policy would be to meet the need as conditions warranted rather than to pledge the future too deeply; and George Webster, Calgary Liberal member, who agreed with Mr. McGillivray. Geo. Hoadley adjourned the debate.

CONSERVATIVE LEADER SPEAKS

Mr. McGillivray declared that the pith and substance of the speech from the throne might be stated in a few words: there was to be an increase of revenue to the amount of about two million dollars, mainly derived from increased taxation, every cent of which was to be spent with the exception of about $45,000. Annual expenditure since the Farmers' Government took hold in 1921, had risen from $10,605,155 in 1921 to an estimated expenditure for the coming fiscal year of $13,065,907. To these figures he would add those of the bonded debt, which had increased since this Government took office from $57,463,675 to $67,741,931 as at the end of March, 1928, with the additional amount in the last nine months of 1928 of $5,188,694.

The Conservative leader believed that the debate on the speech from the throne was a waste of the time of the members of the Assembly and therefore of the money of the people.

Mr. McGillivray desired to give his wholehearted endorsement to the sale of the railroads. He had not hesitated to criticise this Government. He would be unstinting in his praise when he believed they had acted wisely and well. The speaker then went on to claim as had the leader of the Liberal party and others, that his party had advocated the sale when they were jeered at for so doing. The sale had, however, been arranged on favorable terms, and he congratulated the Government on its escape from its railroad entanglements. Then came his references to the power question, already reported.

"PIOUS POLITICAL HYPOCRISY"

Characterizing the reference in the speech from the throne to the Government's action in delaying the passage of an Old Age Pension measure last year as "a piece of pious political hypocrisy," Mr. McGillivray reminded the Government that the demand had received solid support from the non-Government members last session; that there had been ample time for an investigation of the financial considerations between the two previous sessions, after the proposal had been first mooted. In his opinion the Government had always stood for the assumption of the whole burden, and was now sidestepping only because it was deemed political wisdom to do so. They had waited for the return of the natural resources for the past twenty-three years, so they could wait for an opportunity to discuss that question when it was provided later.

Discussing road policy, Mr. McGillivray said increase in revenue account for the new fiscal year was $950,000 from gasoline tax, from increased license fees $344,500, a total of $1,294,500; while the estimated expenditure from capital account was increased $251,000 for construction. Interest on this latter sum at the rate of 5 per cent for the usual sinking fund period of thirty years worked out at about $16,630. The increased cost to the Government would, therefore, be a total of $320,630 in excess of last year. Now the Government intended to collect from the motorists of the Province the sum of $1,294,500 in excess of last year. The motorists, who were not the only people who were using the roads, were being asked to pay the increased taxation of nearly a million dollars, which did not go into roads at all. The farmer and the manufacturer would get a rebate; but the ordinary motor owner would pay taxes which should be borne by every tax-payer in the Province. This in the member's opinion was unfair.

Here Mr. McGillivray made the proposals regarding a loan for road purposes. He would provide for the repayment of this money exclusively out of the increased revenue to be derived from the gasoline and motor licenses. The whole twenty millions would be repaid by his scheme at the end of thirty years from the date of borrowing. Ample funds would be available both for maintenance and for the retirement of the bond issue without increased taxation of motorists; because with increased population and better roads there would be more motorists, consequently a greater consumption of gasoline.

Mr. McGillivray read from an article by the late A. W. Campbell, Dominion Commissioner of Highways, which contained the affirmation that while the value of the Canadian Wheat crop of 1926 was about half a billion dollars, the income from tourist traffic, as yet in its infancy, had amounted in that year to slightly over one fifth of a billion dollars.

Making a tentative excursion upon the field of education the Conservative member for Calgary pouted scorn upon the Minister of Education. It was a pitiful spectacle to see a Minister of this Government running around the country to conventions, "issuing pamphlets," etc., trying to find out for a "politically weak-kneed Government" whether or not it

were politically wise to put the proposed Education Act on the statute books.

Mr. McCilliveay agreed that it was desirable to make auto insurance compulsory under the proposed new Public Vehicles Act. He would safeguard the automobile owner who would have to pay the premiums by providing that the Public Utilities Board should have the power to fix, reduce and increase the premium rates.

DIFFERS FROM COLLEAGUE ON POLICE QUESTION

In the concluding period of his address the Leader of the Conservative quartette took occasion to differ with the stand of his colleague, Col. Weaver, on the question of the policing of the Province. He had the conviction that the Province should retain its own police force. Under the British North America Act it was the duty of the Attorney General of Alberta to administer the Criminal Law. He should therefore have control of the force which was to carry out its provisions. He would not have the administration of criminal law in the hands of appointees of the Dominion. The type of police work had changed since the days of the "Mounties." Patrolling of this country could no longer be effectively done on horseback. The introduction of the Mounted Police in any case could only be a temporary expedient. In a short time the Province would be again faced on account of rapid growth by the necessity for reorganization. The saving of money would not be sufficient compensation for the failure to build up a great police force of our own. The only trouble with the Provincial police was one attributable to this Government. They had failed to officer the force properly, having selected the servants of the R.C.M.P. and made them officers overnight. They had not sufficient experience for such responsibilities.

McPHERSON REPLIES TO CRITICISM

Replying on behalf of the Government to the criticisms of the Conservative leader, O. L. McPherson said the opponents of the Government had come forward with the same old stock arguments about the piling up of debt. *Yet they had reproached the Government for not doing many things which involved increased expenditure.* He, the Minister, admitted the increase in expenditures. The Province was growing and expanding and there was an ever increasing demand for an extension of public services. Mr. McCilliveay had himself frequently voiced the demand. It was worthy of note that the agreement reached with the railways differed greatly from the recommendations of the Conservative party. He thought the words of the Conservative leader in connection with Old Age Pensions were unparliamentary. It was no "political hypocrisy" to try to ascertain beforehand what expenditure such a piece of social legislation involved. They needed also to be assured of a body of sound public opinion before bringing on such a measure. They were content to leave the glory of having first proposed this measure to the parties opposite. He would draw attention to the fact that the Conservative leader had given no intimation as to whether he and his following approved or not of the course of the Government with regard to the return of the Natural Resources.

FORGOT ABOUT DISTRICT HIGHWAYS

Referring to the Conservative leader's criticism of the estimates on roads, Mr. McPherson drew attention to the leaving out of computation by that speaker of the sum of half a million dollars, to be appropriated for work on district highways. He then launched upon a series of comparative figures.

The Minister asked what better roads would there be with the adoption of the proposed five year program? Would the honorable member suggest that the Province was in a position to spend $8,000,000 a year for road purposes? Many people were carried away with a vision of what they would like. They did not appear to have given a thought to the increased cost of maintenance. The increase in traffic would have to be closely watched, as this all bore on the cost of maintenance. He believed in shaping things along an average or middle course. The present program was meeting the needs of the Province as well as could be expected in view of the problems to be faced. The Province of Saskatchewan, with a population of 200,000 more than that of Alberta, had estimated expenditures for the coming year below those of Alberta. He was satisfied that a thoughtful public would give no criticism to the road program and expenditures outlined.

WEBSTER ON TAXATION; AND ON SPECIAL WARRANTS

G. H. Webster said that while he did not believe in starving the vital public services, he thought that the people were not getting the service they should in view of the increased taxation. He then dealt briefly with the increased appropriations from income account in the past four years, and stressed the amount under the heading of special warrants. People were asking why no reduction in taxation. There were surpluses: contributions from motorists and consumers of high priced liquor. He suggested that the machinery of government was getting beyond the control of the gentlemen opposite. He was glad to discover he had one convert to his position of last year in the person of the leader of the Conservative party. The item of $330,000 for Old Age Pensions was practically covered by the increase of the estimated revenue from liquor profits alone. He would have thought that the sale of the northern railways would have made possible a reduction of the bonded debt.

The Liberal member for Calgary then went on to attack the practice of issuing special warrants. He claimed that the Government had last year within ten days of the rising of the Assembly issued warrants for the sum of $323,000 and wanted to know why these items had not been included in the estimates then before the Assembly. He noted the absence of items of expenditure for the university. He was glad to note the cash surpluses in the Telephone report; and suggested that the subvention of $177,000 paid for two years should be paid back to capital account as soon as possible.

CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION TO PENSIONS

P. M. Christophers (Lab.), Rocky Mountain, congratulated the Government on the making of provision for Old Age Pensions and told the Conservative leader that every member of his party had voted against the measure at Ottawa; that a Conservative Senate had thrown the measure of the Federal House out. He knew the record of the Conservative party. It was dead, had been dead long in fact; and only required decent burial.

Mr. Christophers gave it as his opinion that on account of the lack of two great factors, iron ore and water transportation, a great era of industrial expansion in Alberta was not to be expected. In an analysis of the situation in the coal industry, he said he believed that while there was a possibility of an increase of the consumption by Ontario of Alberta lignites, there would be a corresponding decrease in the near future of consumption of those fuels in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They were unable to meet the price competition of American coal. The Government should make some effort, as the mines themselves were too much dependent upon the railways to do that, to have a reduction made in the railway rates upon steam coal. The Member then advocated that there be fairer methods of computing averages in the coal industry reports, both with respect to number of shifts worked and wages earned. The figures, he maintained, included the highly paid and permanently employed staff, and were therefore not a proper index of the status of the miners. The working class must have purchasing power to buy back what they produced. The Government should make every effort to make life equitable for workers here; then people would come voluntarily and there would be no necessity for expensive immigration efforts.

W. C. SMITH ON PROBLEMS OF EMPRESS AREA

After reading pertinent extracts from the *Medicine Hat News* showing that even a Liberal paper could give tribute to the Government for successfully negotiating the sale of the Northern Railways, W. C. Smith (U.F.A.), Empress, dealt briefly with road policy. He could not understand why all the fuss around the City of Calgary about good roads. They had some good roads in his constituency. As yet, however, he had to travel 150 miles before he could see a mile of hard surfaced highway. He would commend to the Minister of Public Works a policy of going out from the cities in several directions with some stretches of hard surfaced roads. He was pleased to note the provision for secondary highways.

In the Tilley East area and the area on the other bank of the South Saskatchewan which does not come under the Tilley provisions, said Mr. Smith, conditions needed stabilization. A vicious attack had been made upon the Government by a Rev. Mr. Morrow of Medicine Hat in both Medicine Hat and Lethbridge papers. He would say in reply that the contradiction complained of was necessary. The administration by the Government of the Local Improvement District of the area had been much more efficient than that of the municipalities. It was desirable to discourage those municipalities and to bring about their disorganization. He did not think the Department had been any too generous in the matter of the cancellation of seed grain relief debts.

Describing the nature of the farming operations in his constituency so as to show that large areas were needed by the farmers either for grazing or for summer-fallowing, Mr. Smith urged that the claims of farmers for land should be met as equitably as possible and that a local man should be on the Board in order to ensure that equity.

The area on the other side of the South Saskatchewan had re-established its credit. Many were returning to that area convinced that they could farm there as profitably as anywhere in the Province. Lands should be allocated to these men, and as soon as possible, and if possible purchased rather than leased. Pre-emp-

tions should either be sold at $6 per acre, with all accrued interest cancelled, or the owners should be permitted to throw up the pre-emption and file on it as a second homestead. Prosperity would soon follow if these suggestions were carried out.

[Mr. Shield's speech, in which he discussed the problems of the Lethbridge Northern in a very able manner, will be printed separately in our next issue. —*Editor.*]

Budget Debate Closes; "No Taxes Earmarked" Government's Policy

Definite Rule Explained by Treasurer—Premier Deals With Critics

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 12.—Viewed from the angle of the taxpayer the feature of the concluding day of the debate on the budget was the emergence in clear and well defined terms of the criticism that the Government was counting on financing many public services out of revenues derived from a portion of the people. The reply, a clear enunciation of a time honored policy of governments for centuries, and for that matter since the dawn of history, was given in the evening by Provincial Treasurer R. G. Reid. No monies collected by the Government were to be ear-marked. Taxes entered into general revenue, were fluid, and devoted to any and all purposes.

During the course of the afternoon and evening the Legislature ran the gamut of thought from the socio-economic theories and ideals of the Labor group as enunciated by R. H. Parkyn of Calgary, in a closely reasoned, well prepared speech; through an analysis of some phases of rural life to be affected by the budget, by A. L. Sanders; past a barrage of criticism of the financial methods of the Government hurled at their leaders by Capt. Shaw, elected head of the Liberal forces, to a vigorous defence of the policies of his Government and an unaccepted challenge to show one item of unnecessary expenditure in the budget brought forward, delivered in his best and characteristic style by Premier Brownlee.

The final hammer blows of the Premier's logic were delivered in the evening after adjournment for dinner. The Assembly then listened with respectful attention to the admirably delivered financial analyses of D. M. Duggan; next promoted its digestion with many a good laugh during the speech of the member from Warner, M. J. Conner, and finally heaved a sigh of contentment when R. G. Reid laid the cap stone of argument and the edifice of budget debate was complete once more, having in the process occupied the shortest time of any budget of recent years.

A motion by C. Y. Weaver (Cons.), Edmonton, asking for all documents, papers, etc., relating to Ponoka, Oliver, Red Deer mental institutions, passing between the Minister of Health, his Deputies and assistants from June 1st, 1927, to Jan. 31st, of this year, provoked a protest from the Premier at the unreasonableness as he saw it of the request. He, the Premier, was willing to meet the member with the Minister of Health or any commission to select such documents as would be pertinent to the needs of the honorable gentleman, but to carry out such an order as was on the paper in his name would entail a huge amount of work and would pile documents on the table eighteen inches deep. After some debate in which members of every group took part, Mr. Weaver agreed to let the matter stand over till Friday.

The announcement of the Minister of Agriculture that he had no desire to contribute to the debate but had adjourned the same knowing that several other members of the Legislature wished to speak opened the way for R. H. Parkyn (Lab.), Calgary.

PARKYN PRESENTS LABOR'S VIEWPOINT

Mr. Parkyn commenced by stating that he and his fellow Labor members had not the polished speech of some. They had been raised in humble working class homes, had gone to work to earn a living at an early age. They had some contribution to make to the debate, nevertheless. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne on the thread of humanitarianism running through their speeches. It had not always been found in such speeches. He was pleased to find a surplus in the revenues of the Province. He supposed this had contributed to the decision to bring forward a measure for Old Age Pensions. He congratulated the Government on the sale of the railways. The C.P.R. would have had no chance to purchase had the Dominion Government believed in public ownership as did the members of the Labor group.

Speaking of coal, the member would allow no more mines to be opened for some years. He would bring in no cheap immigrants to lower the standard of living. He would bring the oil fields fully under the operation of the factory act. He would not allow the best industry to create a demand for cheap labor. Better not to have the industry if this were necessary. Mr. Parkyn endorsed the activities of the Minister of Health, especially in the matter of bringing health services to poor people. The old line parties advocated retrenchment in general terms, but did not dare to put their finger on any one item and have that cut out.

Mr. Parkyn warned the Government that unemployment would increase with industrialization. They must, therefore, look toward some form of unemployment insurance. Why the rush to bring in more people? We might better spend the money to look after the child life of this country. Criticizing the general tendency to talk prosperity, he told that there had been 1258 destitute assisted in past year, and gave the Premier credit for very prompt action in the case of thirty needy old country miners in Calgary.

With clippings from Provincial newspapers, quotations from Kingsley and George Bernard Shaw, the Labor member embellished a speech dealing with many humanitarian interests, including overcrowding, alcoholism, financial reform, and war, and concluding with a verse of "In Flanders Fields." He warned the Assembly that the Labor party would continue to grow. They were preparing for the Co-operative Commonwealth which might come sooner than many in his hearing expected.

SANDERS DISCUSSES VARIOUS PROVINCIAL PROBLEMS

The debate was continued by A. L. Sanders (U.F.A.) Stettler. He made a plea for a continuance of the services of agricultural agents and the promotion of interest in scientific agriculture among the boys and girls of the farm. He believed that the conservation of fertility would require more scientific knowledge and its application.

The member for Stettler endeared the road policy of the Government and took occasion to remind those who were pleading for big expenditures in development roads in new areas that old settlers who had long been paying taxes did not have good roads as yet. He had pioneered for ten years without Government assistance. He was agreed that the proceeds of the gas tax should be spent on roads. He joined with the commendations of the action of the Minister of Health for the work of travelling clinics. In conclusion, he was amazed at the inconsistency of the Leader of the Conservative party. He, himself, was interested in the increase of expenditures from one point of view—that of good returns for money spent.

LIBERAL LEADER OFFERS CRITICISM

Avowing that the Government should give assurance to the settlers on the Lethbridge Northern Project that, if at the end of two or three years it was discovered that with the use of proper farming methods they could not make good, the rates would be reduced, J. T. Shaw, of Bow Valley, next criticised the Budget speech.

Mr. Shaw then held that the change in the fiscal year had hampered the members of the Assembly in dealing with the budget. They were threshing old straw, with accounts nearly a year old. He would like to see a system of monthly accounting with a statement in the *Alberta Gazette*.

The Liberal leader then went on to deal with the estimates relating to public debt. He noted an increase of $125,000 in debenture interest. It was apparent that an increase in public debt was expected. With the sum of $8,000,000 coming to the Treasury on the sale of the northern railways, and additional sums of $340,000 and $560,000 for the Whitelaw-Waterhole and Wembley-Hythe extensions respectively, a total of $5,900,000, he saw no reason for this increase.

Mr. Shaw proceeded then to claim that the surplus was not a real surplus after all. It had been necessary, he avowed, to take in twice the months of January, February and March, the three months of the year which saw the greatest returns, in order to show this surplus. In the estimates of income from motor vehicles for 1928, e.g., there was $700,000 for the same three months period out of a total for the year of $1,200,000. He did not take seriously this talk about a wonderful surplus.

Coming to the subject of the Liquor Control Board's estimated increase in revenue of $300,000, Mr. Shaw stressed the word "control." He understood that the design of the act was to limit rather than encourage consumption. The figures showed that during the past fiscal year the people of Alberta had drunk themselves into the sum of $2,280,000. He did not believe in debauching the community to finance the affairs of this Province. "Control" should be control and not try to increase consumption to balance the budget from year to year.

Hitting out next at the Provincial Treasurer, the member for Bow Valley hoped first that the much heralded Tory report would give some basis for a scheme to finance the sinking fund so as to decrease the burden of debt. He then hinted at irregular methods of financing. He would not advise the Treasurer to go on the New York stock exchange in speculative ventures with public money. It might not be possible to wipe out any

great item of expenditure, but by here a little and there a little more; e.g., in the matter of immigration expenditure, he would cut down expenses. He would urge in conclusion that something must be done to stem the rising tide of expenditure.

BROWNLEE IN FORM IN ANSWERING CRITICS

Amid loud drummings upon the desks of Government supporters, supplemented by those of the Labor group on the opposite side of the chamber, Premier Brownlee rose to address the Assembly. He first stated that it was his intention to assume that criticisms offered had been given in all good faith and not for the purpose of making political capital. He could not believe for instance that the Leader of the Liberals would seriously infer or have the people of this Province infer that there were irregular practices in what had been termed "speculative transactions in New York." Loans had been raised there in a perfectly regular manner, through reputable bankers on gilt-edged security. By these transactions the Treasury Department had received from one half to three quarters of one per cent more than if the money had been left on deposit in the ordinary way.

With great earnestness and restraint the Premier assumed that the Liberal leader had no intention of implying in his words "promoting consumption of liquor" that the Government was really doing anything to assist the increase of consumption. The liquor business was one of the most difficult to administer. To handle it at all the Government required the confidence of all parts of the Assembly. Surely no one would make political capital out of this situation. He was convinced that no man desired less to see liquor consumed than did the Liquor Commissioner. There was no advertising, and there was no promotion of sales. The increase might be accounted for by the increase of consumption upon the part of the residents of the Province, or it might be due to the increase of tourist traffic; or again it might be that purchases of liquor tended to be made through the legitimate channels. It was suggested that the price was too high. The Commissioner, Mr. Dinning, believed that prices were fair in comparison with other sources of supply. It was his, the Premier's, belief that a decrease in price would increase consumption and an increase in price would have the reverse effect.

Anyone reading the press of the United States would realize the dissatisfaction of the public with conditions there. He believed that a few more years would crystallize public opinion and evolve some more satisfactory way of dealing with this vexed question. He would be more than glad to raise the sums of money involved from some other source. (Applause). The Member for Edmonton, Mr. Duggan, had spoken of the beer parlors. There was evidence of a growing dissatisfaction with the conduct of these places. He would give warning that if this growth continued there would soon be a demand for a test as to whether or no they should remain open. The Premier concluded this section of his address with a very emphatic denial of any charge or inference that the Government was encouraging the sale of alcoholic liquors.

FUNCTION OF THE LONDON OFFICE

Immigration next engaged his attention. It was a mistake in the first place to assume that the London office of the Alberta Government was concerned chiefly with immigration. While it had done enough in that field to justify its existence, bringing out boys, women for domestic help, and others, it did many other important things. Alberta was now at the turning of the ways. He was not saying that the natural resources question would be settled this year; but it would be settled soon—within a year or two. In view of the plans involved, in view of the change of attitude toward Canada and Alberta on the part of the English people, a change for which he did not take personal credit, in view of the period of expansion before us and the interest of English capital now aroused, Alberta could not afford to stand aloof.

NO ITEM OF EXPENDITURE CHALLENGED

Speeches from members opposite had suggested that members of the Legislature had been inconvenienced in their discussion of the estimates and accounts by the change in the fiscal year, etc. The Alberta legislators were greatly favored. Instead of the estimates now being brought down in a big rush just a few days before the Assembly met, as formerly, every member now received a copy of the accounts by mail before coming to the Assembly. There were the budget speech, the estimates, the generous space given by the daily press, all available to the members. It was not so in other Provinces. *Payments after all were more important than estimates, and there had been no single challenge after all this time of any single item of expenditure.* So long as the criticism of the members was limited to generalities, to the increase of expenditure and capital debt, so long would he continue to go out among the people and place these matters before them. He believed that they would be able to discriminate. Why advocate increases of expenditures and then blame the Government for the increase? He noted that Saskatchewan, which had started out on its life as a Province at the same time, had figures which corresponded very much with those of the Alberta budget. Saskatchewan had no railway problem. Accommodation for consumptives ought to be doubled. The recommendations of the commission on Poneka would involve double the previous expenditures if implemented. There was a sum of $1,803,000 involved in the expenditures on such services. Would any of the members opposite advocate a reduction in any of these?

The criticisms of G. H. Webster (Lib.), Calgary, came in for review. Why were special warrants necessary? The Premier noted that in no single year since 1916 were there no special warrants. There were many contingencies which could not wait till the next sitting of the Legislature. In this connection, after reading a list of special warrants illustrating that statement, Mr. Brownlee drew attention to the fact that a special warrant of $160,000 for school grants which might have been left over so as not to be included in this year's account of expenditures, was a good instance. That sum had been paid twice in the past fiscal year. Nothing was concealed. They were face to face with the alternative of making generous provision in each Department for expenditures which could not be foreseen (a practice which encouraged extravagance) or using the special warrant as contingencies arose.

The Premier at this point aroused a laugh by drawing attention to the difference of opinion on the police question between the Conservative leader and his supporter Mr. Weaver. If one were the Premier and the other the Attorney General what would the Conservative Government of that day do? Seriously, however, with respect to the elevation of sergeants of the "Mounties" to the important offices of the Provincial force, was it not a recognized principle to promote from the ranks? He found that the heads of the force were accorded the greatest respect wherever he had been.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAYS

With brief reference to the sale of the railways, the Premier stated that there had been days when in their conducting of the operations of the railways their courage had faltered. They had been buoyed up and inspired by the expert and efficient administration of the Deputy Minister, John Callahan. (Government applause). He would say before adjourning that there were too many people looking for great things as a result of the saving effected by the sale of the railways.

Resuming the debate at eight o'clock, Premier Brownlee referred to the allusions of the leader of the Liberals to the Lethbridge Northern situation. Mr. Brownlee said that he had definitely stated to the people on the project that no Government could expect people to do the impossible. He did not propose, though, to base judgment on returns by grain farming alone. A survey was being made to determine the producing capacity of the lands of the project. Representative farmers were keeping accounts according to a method supplied by the Government. He would call the attention of the members to the fact that over half a million dollars was set aside on capital account for advances under the Lethbridge Northern Colonization Act.

ROAD SCHEMES WHICH HAD BEEN ABANDONED

Messrs. McGillivray and Webster had advanced proposals on the road policy of the Government which were not new, said the Premier. The scheme had been tried by the Government prior to 1921 and had been abandoned by this Government. There was more justification for their proposals at that time than now. When this Government took office their predecessors had not taken up the subvention for highways of the Dominion Government. No Government was justified in anticipating conditions except when in the very nature of things this could be dependable. They had been charged with having a gloomy outlook. Better times were now upon us. He had spoken of courageous spending. He did not mean the encouragement of any boom spirit. It was time even now to take stock. Every Department of Government would be closely examined, however; so that in the event of less favorable conditions the affairs of the Province would continue to be carried on with satisfaction to the people.

DUGGAN'S THREE POINTS OF CRITICISM

D. M. Duggan (Cons.), Edmonton, summed up his criticism of the Government's financing under three heads: (1) utilizing revenue derived from a limited section of the people to pay the general costs of government; (2) employing the proceeds of the sale of the northern railways without provision for the reduction of the bonded debt on those railways; and (3) not setting up an adequate sinking fund to cover capital expenditures.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Duggan stated that it was the normal thing to balance the budget. The Treasurer was nevertheless to be congratulated. He would join with the complaints about

increased taxation. There were times when his expenditures were unwise and times when economy was unwise. Edmonton had been too economical during the war years and was suffering for it today. We had passed the trying times and were now enjoying good times. Next to that of B.C., the per capita wealth of Alberta was the greatest in the Dominion. We should face the future with courage. People were entitled to services. He recognized, however, that demands made difficulties for the Government. It was quite clear from the statement on the railways presented by the Premier that the situation was now greatly improved over that of a year ago. The time was therefore ripe. We should be in line with the general progress throughout Canada.

Mr. Duggan here declared his objection to the use of monies raised by gasoline tax and motor license for general expenditures. It was unfair. He concluded his speech by references to the proposed road policy, the sinking fund, the Ponoka Hospital, etc., drawing attention in the last instance to the fact that the Minister of Health had not expended all the appropriations made for that institution.

CONNER ON WHITE AND SACRED ELEPHANTS

What in the parlance of the stage would be styled "the hit of the evening" was made by M. J. Conner, U.F.A. member for Warner.

Mr. Conner drew first of all a picture of the conditions in the southern parts of the Province which were worth more than passing note. The Lethbridge railway division had already shipped some 36,000,000 bushels of wheat of the 1928 crop and had about 11,000,000 bushels still in store, a total of about 30 per cent of the wheat crop of the Province. Yet this prosperity had not come to the people who had produced it. Farming had been conducted under adverse conditions. He would have it known, however, that the south country offered many openings to men who wished to farm. Communities were steadily building up. The man on the land had made it possible. Men had talked about farming on smaller acreages. He agreed with W. C. Smith, member for Empress, that the large holding was a necessity in the south.

It was in dealing with the Lethbridge Northern project that the speaker touched the risible faculties of the Assembly. The Lethbridge Northern might not be the white elephant of which he had spoken on a previous occasion; but it was not a sacred elephant notwithstanding the *Lethbridge Herald*. For his part it had been a toss up whether to wipe the system and its indebtedness off or send good money after bad. He had supported the latter course, and was satisfied with the general policy of the Government. He had, however, sought to get honest opinions from men on this project many of whom he knew well; and only one man had told him he had hopes of paying out on the project. He had been there one year. He had asked officials did they hope to make a win and how, and had not received any satisfactory answer. One man he met had decided like many others to raise chi-kens. "Man, Oh, Man" the member had said, "You could do that on any coulee." The members literally rocked with laughter.

After the swing chairs had become somewhat settled again, Mr. Conner proceeded and warmed up. The settlers were being encouraged to grow sugar beets; but Raymond, which had the factory, was not growing beets to the same extent as formerly. This brought Lawrence Peterson, the member for Taber, to his feet in a hurry, to protest amid more laughter that many sugar beets were grown near that town and more in the Taber-Barnwell area.

Continuing, Mr. Conner said that men had left the dry areas and had gone back again and made good. Man after man who had stayed there had come out on top. As for the free transportation system, to him it was a case of "A ride there and a walk back."

The Treasury benches for a while looked like the orchestra stalls at a vaudeville. A serious look came over their faces, however, and protests of No! No! came from the Premier and others when Mr. Conner suggested that the colonization board was carrying on a process of continuous cancellation. After speaking of the original bonded indebtedness of $5,000,000 the member for Warner stated dramatically that he would write down the land to somewhere near the value of adjacent dry lands, sell it to the settlers and forget about irrigation. Personally he would, as a farmer, fill in the ditches, put in his plow and go to farming.

TREASURER CONCLUDES THE DEBATE

Provincial Treasurer rose to his feet to conclude the debate. There had been little criticism of much weight, said Mr. Reid, and he would not take time to reply at length. Most of the argument from the opposition side had concerned itself with the use of revenues from gasoline and motor licenses. To his mind all revenue should be fluid. *No taxes should be ear-marked for any special use.* License fees and gasoline tax were the only contributions made by many motorists to the upkeep of public services of which they were the objects and beneficiaries. He would have critics of railway financing note that deferred payments carried interest at four per cent; and the first payment to be made on the deal would not be received till after the close of this fiscal year.

Concluding with the observation that the sinking fund of the Government was carried on at the same rate, one half of one per cent, as that of every Province in Canada save one, as well as that of Great Britain, Mr. Reid stated that he was content to leave the matter to the good judgment of the Assembly.

The motion to go into committee of supply to consider the estimates was then carried and the big debate was over.

Medical Needs of Outlying Areas of Alberta Discussed by Legislature

Webster and McCilliveray Critical of Plan to Bring in Women Doctors From Overseas —Other Members Present U.F.A. and Labor Points of View— Echoes of the Booher Case

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 14.—Echoes of the Booher case in which a Dr. Langsner was employed by the Alberta Provincial Police, were heard in the Assembly today, when discussion took place on the initiative of Col. Weaver, upon the way in which Dr. Langsner came to be engaged by the Provincial Police. The greater part of the session was devoted to a matter of the most vital interest to rural Alberta —provision for adequate medical service. George Webster, Calgary Liberal, raised the issue, and found a supporter in a Calgary Conservative member, A. A. McCilliveray, these members expressing some alarm that women doctors were to be brought into Alberta by the Department of Health from overseas, in competition with graduates resident in this Province, while Labor and U.F.A. members spoke strongly in support of the Government policy, which George Hoadley explained at some length.

Col. C. Y. Weaver, (Cons.), Edmonton, moved that the speaker leave the chair and the House consider a matter of importance. Speaking to his motion he informed the Assembly that he had not been satisfied with the answers given to J. T. Shaw's questions regarding the employment of Langsner, in the Booher case. Incidentally the Colonel threw a political brickbat when he said, "it so happens that I am, just as present, more fortunately situated in the matter of obtaining complete information from the Government of B.C. than I am from this Government."

The correspondence between the Attorney General of B.C. and Colonel Weaver showed that no official recommendation had been given by the Police Chief of B.C. to the Police Chief of Alberta with regard to the employment of Langsner. Part of the B.C. Chief's letter to his Attorney General read: "No recommendation whatever was made concerning Dr. Langsner. Colonel Bryan, Commissioner of Alberta Provincial Police, happened to be in Vancouver about the time that Dr. Langsner gave a demonstration of his powers, and I presume that he was impressed with this demonstration and when the Booher case turned up and he sent me a telegram of July 14, copy of which is enclosed. Certainly no recommendation was made to the Alberta Provincial Police that they should employ Langsner."

Then the telegrams were introduced. Col. Bryan wired to find out if Langsner was still in B.C. and if he would come to Alberta, and on what terms. This is the reply: "Langsner willing to assist if fare and all expense of himself and wife, including return to Vancouver paid, and $250 per week to compensate him for loss of business here. Could leave tomorrow if arrangements suitable." He came, and the rest was known to the Assembly.

BROWNLEE ASKS TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Premier Brownlee, in the absence of Mr. Lymburn, stated that the information given to the Assembly was correct. That information had stated that the recommendation was ORAL. The Chief of Police had made his report to the Attorney General, and there had been no attempt to shield any one nor to give inaccurate information. If the member would table the correspondence the Government would investigate further.

J. T. Shaw, Bow Valley, expressed his

ture, Hector Lang (Lib.), Medicine Hat, when he rose to give his maiden speech. In well chosen and forceful language the new member thanked the Assembly for the many courtesies received and then with the aid of a map proceeded to give reasons for the passing of the motion standing on the order paper in his name, "that this Assembly is of the opinion that the Government should immediately urge upon the Federal Government and upon the President and Directors of the Canadian National Railways, that the uncompleted portion of the projected Hanna-Medicine Hat railway line should be completed with the least possible delay."

Mr. Lang gave the history of the road since first begun by the Canadian Northern in 1913. It had been built to Stevesville on the Red Deer river, the piers erected in the river there, the line graded on south and nothing more done since 1922. He then described the country, and stated that the term "dry area" was a little too freely used in so doing.

W. C. Smith (U.F.A.) Empress, through whose constituency the projected line runs, endorsed the resolution and the arguments offered. He pithily characterized that country as "a region of lesser rainfall as compared with the region of lesser frost."

J. T. Shaw, Liberal leader, added his endorsement. There were no intersecting lines in the Province except those running out of Calgary and Edmonton. It was in the interests of the Province that this last link of a new north and south system be completed.

Premier Brownlee, after congratulating the member for his excellent first speech, remarked that he was not sure that resolutions of this kind received much attention from those to whom they were directed. He would assure the member, however, if the motion passed as he expected, that it would receive the heartiest support of the Government.

After the presentation of a number of bills for second reading, including the Town Planning Act, the Assembly adjourned till Friday afternoon.

Letters re Langsner Read in Assembly by Attorney General

Legislature Discusses Motor Drivers' Licenses—What Shall Be Period of License?

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 15.—Criminal expert or pure faker, the Viennese psychologist Langsner, who last year assisted the Alberta Provincial Police to place the crime of quadruple murder at the door of Vernon Booher, still holds the limelight.

Rising to a question of privilege on Friday afternoon, J. F. Lymburn, Attorney General, read to the Assembly correspondence between Commissioner Bryan of the Alberta force and Superintendent McMullen, head of the British Columbia Police, which he contended proved conclusively that the reply he had given to questions asked by C. Y. Weaver (Cons.), Edmonton, was in strict accordance with the facts. He had been away in Calgary on Thursday when Mr. Weaver had tabled a letter from the Attorney General of B.C. enclosing one from Supt. McMullen, together with copies of telegrams passing between Mr. McMullen and Commissioner Bryan.

The letter received by Mr. Weaver had stated that "No recommendation whatever was made concerning Dr. Langsner. Commissioner Bryan happened to be in Victoria about the time that Dr. Langsner gave a demonstration of his powers; and I presume that he was impressed with this demonstration. Certainly no recommendation was made to the A.P.P. that they should employ Dr. Langsner."

After reading the correspondence extending over a number of months between the two police heads Mr. Lymburn drew attention to several facts. Col. Bryan had only been introduced to Langsner. The B.C. police about that time staged a fake crime to test the powers of the criminal expert. Col. Bryan had been asked by Assistant Superintendent Owens of the B.C. police to attend the demonstration. He had not done so. A few days after he had interviewed Mr. McMullen, who spoke in terms of commendation of the way Langsner had handled the crime. Col. Bryan naturally took that as equivalent to a recommendation. It was important, said Mr. Lymburn, to remember two points: first, that the B.C. police had satisfied themselves as to the competency of Langsner, and had employed and paid him and had discontinued his services on account of heavy bills; second, that notwithstanding all the revelations and publicity which had followed, Supt. McMullen had written so late as October 8th saying that he "still had faith in Langsner." Mr. Lymburn later emphasized that the word "still" implied that the head of the B.C. police had previously had faith in the Viennese. The Attorney General got away to a good start at his political opponents at this time, but the vigilant ear of Speaker George Johnston brought the incident to a close.

UNEMPLOYED PARADE AND TEAR BOMBS

While things were still warm and police were up for discussion, Fred White, Labor leader, asked if it were true that the Edmonton and Alberta police in Edmonton had been equipped with tear bombs and riot clubs on Thursday in anticipation of the march of five hundred unemployed upon the Government Buildings. Premier Brownlee said that no instructions as to method had been given by the Government. The police had been requested to keep a firm hand on things but to do nothing which would aggravate the situation. Asked by R. H. Parkyn, (Lab.), if he approved of the use of "these weapons of warfare," Mr. Brownlee replied that it was a question of opinion what to do in a grave situation. Tear bombs, moreover, were harmless and very different from methods used at other times.

Answering a question, Mr. Hoadley stated that he had just received the official report of the fatality at Ponoka, caused by the striking of one patient by another.

LABOR AND MEETING IN MEDICINE HAT

On a question of privilege, Fred White gave out that the Labor party had engaged the hall in Medicine Hat in the recent by-election, had paid a deposit upon the rent and found that an attempt was being made to oust them by their opponents. They had informed the management that they would hold the meeting somewhere in any case. The Premier was their speaker that night; but all arrangements were made by them. Interviewed later, the Premier had corroborated that he had been the guest of the Labor element in Medicine Hat. He had not, as he had been accused, masquerated for the last night.

Perren Baker laid on the table the report of the University of Alberta. Bill No. 23 "An Act Respecting Municipal Hospitals" was given a second reading and the Assembly resolved itself into committee of the whole to deal for the third time with a number of bills.

Of the bills considered, one concerning highways traffic created the most discussion.

DISCUSSION ON MOTOR DRIVERS' LICENSES

Mr. McPherson explained that there was no thought at present of a physical examination for drivers of motor vehicles; nor was it the intention to make the fee, if any, a source of revenue. Replying to a question, he stated that no provision was being made to license drivers from other Provinces or states. Answering Mr. Webster, he believed that few if any farmers would invest in a motor truck and then refrain from securing a license to drive. They would want to be free to use it at any time.

Premier Brownlee stated that Mr. Trowbridge, Provincial Registrar, had suggested that a driver's license extend over a term of, say, five years. From this point the debate largely resolved itself into a question of the length of term of the driver's license. All party lines were ever-stepped. Some members were for a perpetual license, giving as their reasons that to require registration annually or even less frequently was to inconvenience greatly many people, while the object was to check up reckless and incompetent drivers. L. A. Giroux (Lib.), Athabasca, expressed the view that there were already too many laws. Premier Brownlee was of the opinion that the demand was growing rapidly for more stringent regulation of motor vehicles. Both the Premier and Mr. McPherson emphasized the fact that uniformity was being sought throughout the various Provinces and states. G. H. Webster, of Calgary, inclined toward an annual license taken out at the same time as the regular car license. Mr. Sparks, of Wetaskiwin, suggested that a pamphlet setting forth the rules of the road, etc., should be given to each applicant for license.

It was not a question as to whether the proposed regulations were or were not a nuisance, stated Mr. Brownlee, but were they necessary? It would be very difficult to examine the 200,000 people who might apply for a driver's license. The Provincial Secretary's Department would shortly receive an addressograph which would enable them to send out to all car owners an application form so as to make it easier to comply with the regulations. They would probably have to issue drivers' licenses to all applicants without examination at the time of receipt of car license and then introduce the examination idea for subsequent applicants.

A new note was thrown into the discussion by P. Engensure (U.F.A.), Alexander when he suggested the interdiction of nuisance drivers. He was supported in this idea by C. Y. Weaver. George MacLachlan suggested that applications for license be received by mail, one driver's license for the whole family. M. McCool, (U.F.A.), Cochrane, was in favor of complete uniformity of traffic by-laws. He would also have uniformity in auto horns.

J. T. Shaw announced that he did not drive a car. Looking at things from the angle therefore of the pedestrian he thought there was undoubtedly a motor complex. The day had not yet passed, however, for pedestrian rights. In his

experience he had come across no case of conviction on charge of manslaughter in recent years. The protection of the Criminal Code was inadequate. In fact, the safeguards against negligent driving were thoroughly inadequate. Locomotive drivers had complained to him that their nerves were almost shattered with the responsibility of level crossings. Certainly train and truck collisions were becoming more frequent. He recalled reading an article advocating stopping all motor traffic at railway crossings.

The hour of six arriving the mace was lifted and carried out before the Speaker, and debate was over for another week. Prior to adjournment the Premier announced that the Railway Bill would be considered on Monday and the Wheat Pool Bill next Friday.

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Answering the charge made by G. H. Webster (Lib.), Calgary, of undue use of special warrants, Premier Brownlee last week laid on the table of the Legislature Sessional Papers showing that between March 31st, 1928, and January 30th, 1929, some 46 special warrants had been issued, authorizing a total expenditure of $1,356,149. Of this the sum of $631,668 had been expended to February 1st, 1929, and would be increased by whatever sums would be expended during the remaining two months of the fiscal year.

The expenditures range from a small grant of $35 to the more substantial amount of $160,000, voted to the Department of Education from income account for the purpose of paying school grants.

Among the interesting items are: a grant to the Canadian Olympic Committee of $750; purchase of a locomotive for the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway, $37,000; relief to British Harvester Immigrants, $2,346; purchase of property in the city of Edmonton $55,940; unemployment relief $5,962; drilling of salt well at Waterways, $3,163.

The Premier read some of these figures and asked the Assembly whether they were prepared to say that any one or more of these expenditures should or could have been left till the present session met. The challenge was not accepted.

TO AIDE THE BLIND

In the discussion on "The Ultimate Heir Act" in the early part of the session, Fred White, leader of the Labor group, following a question as to why the University had been made the heir of persons dying intestate, made the suggestion that such monies might be used to assist the blind; not as was stated in the brief summary of the debate given in our last issue, to injured miners.

DAIRYMEN'S OFFICERS

The Alberta Dairymen's Association at its annual convention held recently in Edmonton named the following officials of the organization for the coming year: President, J. W. Carlyle, Calgary; Executive: D. J. Christie, Strathcona; John Tully, Calgary; W. A. Rusher, Calgary; J. R. Ritchie, Strathcona; D. Morkeberg, Markerville, and J. B. Duffy, Edmonton.

As Seen From the Press Gallery

By "TIDAL WAVE"

When Wee Mac speaks extemporaneously, he often lays himself open to shafts from the archers of progress. T'other day he had one of his "unalterably opposed" moods, when the question of women doctors from overseas was under review. He asserted that the Minister was always "bedevilling the doctors and flirting with state medicine." When the Honorable George was replying later, the Peerless Leader interjected three times, "Will the Minister state whether he ever made the offer of $2000 a year and free housing with travelling allowances to our own local doctors?" The Minister affirmed that he would not introduce State medicine unless forced to do so by the failure of the doctors to render the right kind of service at proper cost, but pointed out that the Old Country was practically entirely on some form of State Medicine, nationally or locally. But the joke was on Wee Mac, because while repudiating "State Medicine" he contended that local doctors should be offered the same terms as were arranged for the clinic doctors. And it is doubtful yet if he sees the point. So Wee Mac is unalterably opposed to State Medicine on the one hand, while on the other hand he is in favor of State Medical Aid. It is to laugh.

And then George Webster, financial critic and political Quixote, tilted a lance at the Minister of Health on the same question. Labor adjourned the debate, and were granted permission to do so rather reluctantly. This looked suspicious, so down the stairs we trotted to see what Labor had up its toil worn sleeve. Just this, if the member from Calgary insists that home product in medical graduates should have the right of way in Alberta, then the principle would apply equally to our home product in mechanics and artisans, aye, even in farm help. They argue, that what is right for the goose is right for the gander. No appointments for foreign or overseas mechanics until the home product has been placed in employment. Won't George Webster have some time getting out from under that? How terrible to be hoist with one's own petard.

Net Operating Surplusses $810,209 on Railways

Healthy Increases Shown—But Interest Charges Still Double This Amount on Provincial Lines

Under the management of the Department of Railways the operations of Alberta's northern lines were attended with success again in 1928, as shown in the annual report of the Minister, Vernor W. Smith. In the case of the E.D. & B.C. the net operating surplus was $795,248, as compared with $353,479 last year, while that of the A. & G.W. was $61,674, also about double last year's surplus.

The two shorter lines record operating deficits as follows: Central Canada, $39,513 as against $66,267 in 1927; Pembina Valley (first full year) $7,198.

While there was an increase in net operating revenue of the two major lines as follows: E.D. & B.C. $441,767; A. & G.W., $7,198, the interest on the funded and unfunded debt of the two lines amounted to $789,683 and $759,030 respectively; to this add the interest on the funded and unfunded debt of the Central Canada of $224,083 and we have a total interest charge of $1,772,805, the net operating surplus of the four railways of $810,209 taking care of less than half. In this last set of facts, it is considered, lies ample justification for the sale of these lines.

(Articles on the reports of the Department of Railways and the Department of Public Works, surveying the work of the past year, will be given in the issue of March 1st.—*Editor.*)

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Pool radio program—"Irish Love Song," "Parted," and "The Song of the Soul." Mrs. McCardell is a sister of J. Jesse Strang.

C. Dolding, of Hughenden, writes: "Please send me a copy of the Alberta Pool Balance Sheet for 1927-1928. I should also like to pen my satisfaction with the manner in which the Pool has conducted its operations since 1923, as I feel sure that had conditions remained as in 1922, when I sold my first crop of wheat No. 1, for an average of 82 cents a bushel, I and many others would not have been able to stay on the farm. Having worked in the co-operative movement in England, I am more than pleased with the close application the Pool is making in all its activities to the true co-operative principles and only wish I had more time to spare to help on the good cause."

Late Field Service News

The Owlseye Wheat Pool Local has a new chairman in the person of H. F. Anderson, of Owlseye.

W. H. Schmidt, of Boisker, and Emil Morgenroth, of Boisker, are the new secretary and chairman of Boisker Wheat Pool Local.

E. E. Elmshaner, Alberta Wheat Pool field service man, has been giving lectures in co-operation and particularly in the general organization and operation of the Wheat Pool, to classes in the various schools of agriculture in Alberta. The schools of agriculture are paying a great deal more attention to the teaching of co-operation than in the past.

A very successful meeting was held in Bernwells Hall, six miles west of Lacombe, on Monday, February 11th, when over 30 members turned out to hear L. J. McKenzie speak on Wheat Pool affairs. During the meeting a Wheat Pool Local was organized with W. F. Young as chairman and H. E. Heath as secretary. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the ladies of the U.F.W.A.

At Aberdeen School, seven miles east of Innisfail, a well attended meeting was held on February 11th. The speakers of the evening were R. Pye, Wheat Pool delegate for sub-district E-4 and U.F.A. Director for Red Deer, and L. J. McKenzie, Wheat Pool field service man. Mr. McKenzie addressed the meeting on Wheat Pool affairs while Mr. Pye spoke on the U.F.A. and its place among the producers of this Province. At the close of the meeting a U.F.A. Local was organized at this point.

On February 12th a Wheat Pool meeting was held at Spring Valley School, 9 miles east of Lacombe, when more than 60 members were present to hear L. J. McKenzie address them on Wheat Pool affairs, this being the first time that the members of this district have been favored with a visit from a member of the Pool staff. The Wheat Pool sign-up is very strong at this point. The meeting was opened with musical selections by local talent, and at the close, refreshments were served by the ladies of the U.F.W.A.

Old Age Pensions, State Life Insurance, Among Reforms Sought by U.F.A. Annual Convention

Delegates Endorse Anti-Beer Parlor Proposal of U.F.W.A.—Urge Immediate Return of Alberta's Resources—Plan to Celebrate U.F.A.'s Twenty-first Anniversary Next January—Convention Adjourns

With only one opposing vote, the Annual Convention of the U.F.A. on January 18th, urged the Alberta Government to make provision for Old Age Pensions at the 1929 session of the Legislature. The resolution adopted was submitted by the East Edmonton Federal Constituency Association, and was in the following terms:

Whereas, there are in Alberta men and women who have spent many years as pioneers, in agriculture, industry and some of the professions, and through no fault of their own have been unable to make adequate provision for their old age;

Be it resolved, that in view of the improved financial state of our Province consequent upon the sale of the Provincial railways, we urge the Provincial Government to introduce legislation for the establishment of a system of Old Age Pensions at the 1929 session of the Legislature, such social legislation to be provided for prior to any enlarged system of highway construction or other large material projects.

In moving the adoption of the resolution, Mr. Child, of Iron Springs, spoke briefly in support of the principle involved, and was followed by Carl Axelson, who in seconding said that Alberta had tended to get into the "tail of the procession" in matters of social legislation, and that it was time for the Province to "try to catch up." Mr. MacFarquhar supported the resolution, using the occasion to point the moral of the credit reformer. Another delegate cited the case of a man who had grown old in the service of his fellows, but by virtue of his failure to think first of himself, found himself in old age without means.

A "Shavian" Amendment

An amendment which might have emanated from George Bernard Shaw, since it embodied the views on pensions expressed by that social philosopher, was moved by Mr. Hardy, as follows, but found no seconder:

"Be it resolved that we favor its application to all people of that age"—the age of 70.

Mr. Hardy contended that complete equity would be established by making the payment of the pension universal, irrespective of the financial position of those who received it. It would then be a form of insurance universally applied.

Henry Young, of Millet, who said he had opposed a similar resolution last year because he felt that the Federal Government should undertake the responsibility, and because there seemed to be some hope that they would assume a larger share of the cost, gave strong support, pointing out that the hope of a year ago was not likely to be realized, and that Alberta taxpayers were now meeting a portion of the cost of pensions paid in other Provinces, while deriving no benefits themselves.

After a brief explanation of the scheme adopted by the Federal Parliament, the resolution was put to the vote.

Autos to Stop at Crossings

On motion of J. K. Sutherland, seconded by J. A. Johnson, the following resolution was carried, by a very close vote:

"Resolved that all trucks and automobiles come to a full stop before crossing any railway track, and that failure to do so be made a punishable offense."

The object of the proposal, it was pointed out, was to arrest in some degree the mounting list of automobile fatalities in this Province.

Abolition of Beer Parlors

The following resolution, passed by the U.F.W.A. Convention, was endorsed by a large majority, on motion of Rice Sheppard:

"Whereas, sufficient time has elapsed to demonstrate that the establishment of the beer parlors, in Alberta, is proving to be a menace to the morals, happiness and standard of living of the rural people of this Province, and

"Whereas, the women of this Province are bearing the onus of helping to establish these beer parlors because they had the franchise at the time the plebiscite was taken;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the U.F.W.A., in Convention assembled, take our stand against this evil and do all we possibly can to abolish same."

A very long discussion took place on this resolution.

Mr. McCuna was astonished that something bigger in the way of change than the abolition of beer parlors was not advocated. There were men in his community who had originally favored the beer parlors, and now wanted to see them done away with.

One of the delegates contended that the local option clauses of the Liquor Control Bill could meet the case, since the people could invoke them at any time, and another, Mr. Hardy, declared that before the present act was brought into effect, respect for law was being undermined, and stating that more girls and boys learned to drink during prohibition days than had done so since. Mr. Axelson thought that local option should be put fully to the test before further action was taken.

Mr. Sheppard spoke strongly in support of the resolution, citing instances from his own observation of the evils of intemperance.

System of State Life Insurance

In support of the following resolution, moved by H. W. Leonard in behalf of the Bow River Federal C.A., the Convention was unanimous:

Whereas, life insurance has become so general that the nation may be said to be interested directly in the business, and

Whereas, private companies operating for profit have so accumulated profits and control of credit that they may be said to be able to influence the bond markets, and

Whereas, the business of insuring life has been shown to be one carrying little risk;

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention the public interest will best be served if life insuring is done at cost; that it is no longer safe to leave such great credit control in the hands of private persons, and that the Governments both Provincial and Federal should investigate at once the advisability of instituting a system of State Life Insurance.

H. McKenzie believed that state insurance was needed not only for life, but for unemployment and against other risks. Harvey Hanson dwelt upon the costliness of the present system, under which in some cases, he said, if an insured person paid $200 a year the agent received $100. The private companies were getting so strong financially that they had been able to put out of business the insurance schemes of fraternal organizations. He gave an instance from his own experience, in which such a fraternal society had paid every claim even of men who had been killed overseas, and remained sound—the Modern Woodmen of America—but the power of the centralized insurance interests had been used to prevent their functioning further as an insurance body.

Return of Natural Resources

The Convention unanimously adopted the following:

Whereas, there seems to be unwarranted delay in the return of the Alberta Natural Resources;

Therefore be it resolved, that we ask the Provincial Government to urge the Federal authorities for an immediate settlement of this question.

Following the adoption of resolutions dealing with medical treatment for ex-soldiers and with tariff policy (which will be separately dealt with), the Convention referred remaining resolutions to the U.F.A. Board.

Twenty-first Anniversary

On a question of privilege, Mr. Priestley was given permission to introduce a resolution dealing with the celebration of the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the U.F.A., which was unanimously adopted, as follows:

Resolved that inasmuch as the next Annual Convention will mark the completion of twenty-one years of the life of this organization, we urge upon our Board of Directors that they take steps to celebrate the occasion fittingly and adequately.

Resistance to War

On a question of privilege, Mr. Axelson asked permission to bring in a resolution dealing with opposition to war, and this was granted on motion from the floor. He stated that his resolution was among those regularly submitted, and that it originated in Gray Lake Local. The resolution read as follows:

Whereas, the United Farmers of Alberta are opposed to war, and

Whereas, preparations for further imperialistic wars are now carried on behind the "peace pacts" to a greater extent than ever before;

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the United Farmers of Alberta, do hereby express our opposition to this preparation and precipitation of such

war, and do further resolve that if called or drafted will refuse to take part, and instead pledge ourselves to do everything possible to protect our rights, and the rights of the common people generally with the object to thereby make possible peaceful relations between men and nations.

Mr. Axelson spoke briefly in explanation of the purport of the resolution, stating that as the U.F.A. had gone on record in opposition to militarism and war, they must, if they were consistent, take the most effective means of ensuring against these evils. This, he believed, was provided in his resolution. Mr. Neil East said that if those who had survived the war were to be worthy of the men who laid down their lives "in Flanders Fields" they must ensure against a repetition of such a calamity as the Great War.

Mr. Scholefield moved an amendment that after the word "part" in the last clause, the following words be added: "except in the event of invasion or attack" and this was seconded.

Another delegate declared that it might be difficult to distinguish between defensive and offensive warfare, since there were occasions when "the best defence was to attack."

It was moved by Mr. Macklin that the resolution be tabled, and this was seconded and carried.

Mr. Axelson declared that by expressing themselves against war while refusing to pass this resolution which was designed as one means to prevent it, the delegates had shown themselves to be "hypocrites."

This statement caused many protests, and meanwhile the chairman, Mr. Gardiner, informed Mr. Axelson that he must withdraw the offending word. This Mr. Axelson did forthwith, expressing regret and stating that in place of the word used he should have said "absolutely inconsistent."

Votes of Thanks

Votes of thanks were proposed and adopted to the Edmonton city council, the Edmonton Board of Trade (especially thanking Mr. John Blue for his services) to the Edmonton service clubs, the citizens of Edmonton, the church authorities, to those who contributed to the entertainments and to the press for their admirable reports, and to all who had contributed to make the Convention a success.

On motion of J. K. Sutherland, the Convention adopted a "hearty vote of thanks to our four very efficient chairmen, our Secretary, Mr. Scholefield, and our very efficient staff, for the way in which they have co-operated to make this Convention a success."

G. E. Roose moved a vote of thanks to the "Order of Business Committee for the very efficient way in which they have carried on this Convention." This also was unanimously adopted and the Convention adjourned with the singing of "God Save the King."

(Three or four subjects dealt with by the Convention, and not included in this general report, will be treated in separate articles.)

GARDINER CALLS FOR DISMISSAL

(Continued from page 2)

with the amendment of 1927 known as the Campbell amendment, but in this list there is no order-in-council granting companies power to change the form of a ticket.

Mr. Malcolm: *My hon. friend is quite right. The order-in-council simply brought the ticket into conformity with the act.*

Mr. Gardiner: That is satisfactory. Now that we have the explanation I want to deal with the matter. I take it there is no order-in-council passed which would permit the Board of Grain Commissioners to authorize a ticket to read:

"Received into store on account of the Alberta Wheat Producers, Limited . . ."

Mr. Malcolm: I do not know what my hon. friend is referring to in that particular instance. The order-in-council passed by the Government simply brought the wording of the ticket into exact conformity with the wording of the Campbell amendment, which was an amendment to the grain act.

Went Outside Their Power

Mr. Gardiner: That clears the air. That is quite satisfactory. The Board of Grain Commissioners have gone outside of their power in permitting this "hybrid" ticket to come into existence and be forced upon the farmers and under those circumstances they are not worthy of the position they hold and we demand their removal. Let me explain the reasons why.

Mr. Malcolm: I have never seen the ticket that my hon. friend claims is illegal. I want to be fair to the Board.

Mr. Gardiner: That is very easy to explain. This special bin ticket which was provided for by order-in-council to bring the act in conformity with the provisions of the Campbell amendment, states:

"Received into store from—"

Then there are inserted the name of the farmer who delivers the grain, the number of bushels and so forth. This hybrid ticket reads as follows: "Received into store, on account of the Alberta Wheat Producers, Limited," instead of receiving it from the farmer. Consequently, the farmer is prevented from sending the grain to a terminal of his own choosing, because it has been received on account of the Alberta Wheat Producers Limited.

Mr. Malcolm: Is my hon. friend pointing out that there has been substituted for the name of the farmer the name of the Alberta Wheat Producers Limited?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes.

Mr. Malcolm: By consent of the Board?

Mr. Gardiner: By consent of the Board.

Mr. Malcolm: And the Board, I presume, gave their consent to that because the Alberta Wheat Producers Limited control the grain of the farmers who belong to the Pool.

Mr. Gardiner: No, no. I have before me the contract which I signed, and so far as that contract goes, I defy any member of this House to show that I have to deliver my grain to the Wheat Pool at any given point, except under special instructions from them. It is within my power to deliver to a local elevator, if I so desire, or to ship in carload lots to a terminal elevator of my own choosing, or to deliver to the terminal of the Pool. There is nothing to prevent my delivering the grain at any point I choose, except upon special request of the Pool. That is the whole matter that is under discussion at the present time.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock I was discussing the administration of the Grain Act by the Board of Grain Commissioners. As I have only another two or three minutes at my disposal I merely wish to make this concluding statement.

Where Responsibility Belongs

After reading the order-in-council passed by the Government to bring the Grain Act into conformity with the amendment of 1927, I absolve the Government of any responsibility for the "high power" tickets that were in use in Western Canada last fall, and I place responsibility where responsibility belongs—on the Board of Grain Commissioners. Referring again to the special binned grain ticket, I would merely call the attention of the House once more to the part of the ticket which we believe the Board of Grain Commissioners are responsible for bringing into use:

"Received into store from—"

Then follows a space for the insertion of the name of the farmer who delivers the grain. The "hybrid" ticket which I have seen reads as follows:

"Received into store on account of the Alberta Wheat Producers Limited."

Asks Dismissal of Board

We maintain that by virtue of such change being allowed the farmer was deprived of the right of controlling the destination of his grain, and to that extent the change is a violation of the Canada Grain Act. We submit that the Board of Grain Commissioners are responsible for this violation, and therefore we ask that the present Board be dismissed—no question about that— and that a new Board be appointed. We suggest that the Board be increased from three to five members, and that one of those members reside in Alberta and another in Saskatchewan. We recognize the influence of environment. Two of the present grain commissioners live at Fort William and the third at Winnipeg, and in their environment we believe that they are likely to be impressed by the grain trade to too large an extent. Consequently, for safety, we maintain that the Board should be increased to five members one of whom should reside in Alberta and another in Saskatchewan.

My time having elapsed, Mr. Speaker, I may be permitted to add that we farmers in Western Canada hope that this House and the Government will assist us in preserving our rights under the Canada Grain Act.

ALBERTA BRANCH LINES, C.N.R.

Of the 695 miles of branch lines construction which is proposed by the Canadian National Railways during the next three years 156 miles are in Alberta. The longest project in the Province is 82 miles of new construction to run south-easterly from Alliance to near Dobson on the Calgary-Saskatoon line of the C.N.R. In addition to serving a large area of good agricultural land this branch will considerably shorten the haul for grain and other shipments to Edmonton. From this new line a branch 25 miles in length will be built in a north-easterly direction from Bulwark. The building program in Alberta also includes the extension of the Loverna line from its present terminus at Hemaruka to Scapa on the Hanna-Warden line, a distance of 41 miles following the route originally projected by the Grand Trunk Pacific.

GOOD SALESMAN

"Why do you wear rubber gloves when cutting hair?" asked the customer.

"For the purpose of keeping our celebrated hair restorer from causing hair to grow on my hands," replied the barber.

He sold a bottle.—*Tit Bits.*

Printed for the United Farmers of Alberta at the office of the Alberta Job Press Limited, 310-9th Avenue East, Calgary, Alberta